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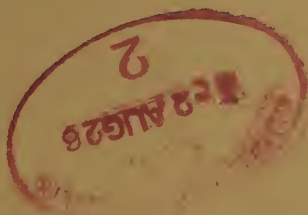


RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
ONGAR.

REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1925.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1925.

FYFIELD, ONGAR.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Ongar
Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925. In general terms the health of the District has been good ; the death rate remains low and the incidence of infectious disease moderate.

This report being intended by the Ministry of Health to cover the past five years and to indicate sanitary advances during that period, the appendix is larger than usual and gives more statistical information.

I am glad to record the action now being taken by the Council to relieve the Housing Shortage, and also to note that the extension to the Sewage Works is nearing completion.

Among the improvements of the past five years may be mentioned the appointment of a whole time Sanitary Inspector, the activities of a Health Visitor, the care given to inspection of dairies and slaughter houses, and improved means of dealing with house refuse.

A very desirable improvement that remains to be done is the extension of sewerage to a number of houses at the northern end of Ongar, in the parish of Shelley.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. S. DAVID,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres, 47,712

Population 1921 Census, 10,140

„ estimated 1925, 10,320

Physical Features and General Characters.

Average height above sea level, 200 ft.

Preponderating character of soil, London Clay

Rivers, Roding and tributaries

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921, 2,610

Rateable Value, £69,877

Sum represented by a penny rate, £195

Chief occupations of Inhabitants, Agriculture

Vital Statistics.

Births	{	Legitimate ...	201	}	211
		Illegitimate ...	10		

Birth Rate, 20.4 per 1000

Deaths, all ages, 109

Death Rate 10.5 per 1000

Deaths from Child-birth, 1

„ of infants under 1 year, 12

Rate per 1000 births, 56.8

Deaths from Measles, Nil

„ „ Whooping Cough, Nil

„ „ Epidemic Diarrhoea, Nil

Deaths classified in age periods—

Under	1 year	...	12
From 1— 2	„	...	2
„ 2— 5	„	...	5
„ 5—15	„	...	0

From 15—25 years	...	4
„ 25—45 „	...	14
„ 45—65 „	...	21
„ 65 and over	...	51

Total		109

No cause of sickness has been specially noteworthy.
 Poor Law Relief is given to the amount of £1500 yearly.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the area.

TUBERCULOSIS. Many cases are sent to Sanatoriums provided by the County Council.

MATERNITY }
 CHILDREN } No provision.

FEVER CASES Patients are sent under agreement to the Romford Isolation Hospital.

SMALL POX. Patients go, by agreement with the West Ham Borough Council, to Orsett Hospital.

The Council possess a Motor Ambulance, which is freely used for these purposes.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS
 None.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A Child Welfare Centre is held fortnightly in the Parish Room, Abridge, and another is being contemplated at Chipping Ongar.

DAY NURSERIES. None.

SCHOOL CLINICS. Under arrangement.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. None. Patients attend at Epping.

VENEREAL DISEASE. Patients go to Chelmsford or London Hospital.

Public Health Officers.

M.O.H. Part time. Contribution to salary by Essex County Council.

Sanitary Inspector. Whole time. Contribution to salary by Essex County Council.

A Health Visitor is maintained.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

GENERAL. A Nurse is maintained in Ongar by voluntary subscriptions. The two district nurse-midwives do a good deal of nursing apart from maternity work.

MEASLES. In case of an epidemic the M.O.H. has power to employ a temporary nurse for the care of patients in their homes.

CHEMICAL WORK. No special arrangement. The M.O.H. examines samples of water for fitness.

Legislation in Force.

The Building Bye-Laws Rural Series adopted 1902

Fruit and Vegetable Pickers' Bye-Laws „ 1906

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

Regulations „ 1906

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 „ 1901

Private Street Works Act, 1898 „ 1903

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The parishes of Chipping Ongar, High Ongar, Bobbingworth, Greensted, Lambourne, Theydon Mount,

Toot Hill, and parts of Stanford Rivers and Shelley are supplied by the Herts and Essex Water Co. The water is derived from deep wells at Sawbridgeworth.

A number of houses in Stapleford Abbotts also are supplied by the Council who obtain water in bulk from the Romford Rural D C.

Supply is constant and usually satisfactory. In Ongar is for the most part directly to houses: in High Ongar, Stapleford Abbotts, and elsewhere by stand-pipes.

The remainder of the district is mainly supplied by shallow wells; solitary houses and groups of cottages often have no supply and either use surface water near at hand or fetch water from a distance.

Experience shows that it is difficult to remedy these cases, but collective action sometimes effects improvement.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Roding receives the effluent from the Ongar Sewage Works, and also that from High Ongar and Abridge.

Owing to inherent difficulties the purification at these Works has at times been defective, and new Works are being installed at Ongar which should put an end to the pollution of the river.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Chipping Ongar, High Ongar, Abridge, Toot Hill, Blackmore, and parts of Moreton are sewered.

Purification at Ongar is at present by broad irrigation; the new extension will provide contact beds in addition. At High Ongar and Abridge purification is

by broad irrigation. At Toot Hill by septic tank and broad irrigation. At Moreton continuous filtration through graduated beds. At Blackmore by contact beds after septic tank.

These Works are usually in good order but need attention to ensure satisfactory working.

Extension of Sewerage is needed for a number of houses on the Fryfield Road, Ongar, in Shelley parish.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The general policy where there are no sewers is to provide houses with pail closets and to convert existing privies to pail closets.

Approximate number of privies with open middens	150
" " " " closed	150
" " pail closets	1300
" " water	650

SCAVENGING.

Chipping Ongar is scavenged weekly by contract, the refuse being disposed of in a destructor at the Sewage Works. A new destructor of a capacity of 2 tons daily is being constructed. Ashbins (movable) are used, there being no fixed receptacles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

A large number of Inspections are made jointly with the Sanitary Inspector, whose report is appended—

Joint Inspections of Premises—

Of Houses	...	...	...	23
„ Schools	...	...	...	16
„ Water Supplies	...	...	...	10
„ Infectious Disease and Contacts	...	...	...	25
„ Dairies	...	...	...	29

Housing.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

There is still a shortage of houses for the working-class, the interruption caused to building by the war has never been made good. In the past five years private enterprise has erected 180 dwellings, many of which are wooden buildings such as army huts, and 37 have been built by the Council under the Addison Scheme at Ongar and Abridge, but little has been done to house the agricultural labourer in the outlying parishes.

This deficiency is now to be remedied or mitigated by the erection by the Council of 34 houses at :—

High Ongar	...	...	6
Shelley	...	...	4
Moreton	...	...	4
Fyfield	...	...	4
Norton Mandeville		...	2
Blackmore	...	..	4
Doddinghurst	...	...	2
Greensted	...	...	2
Stanford Rivers	...	...	6

With annual additions until the deficiencies are made up.

OVERCROWDING.

Many cases known to exist, notably at Abridge, Moreton, Bovinge and Doddinghurst. Persons have had to go to the Workhouse for lack of accommodation.

- Causes (a) House too small for family occupying.
(b) Lodgers.

Some cases dealt with by rearrangement.

Other cases cannot be remedied without more new houses.

Fitness of Houses.

GENERAL STANDARD.

The general standard of fitness in the area is probably that of other rural areas in the County. A general survey of cottages was made in 1919 and some 1600 inspected with the result that 310 or about 19% were judged unfit for habitation, and a further 200 defective in some respects.

Repeated re-inspection after repair has caused revisions of this list; many have been effectively restored and others placed in a tolerably sanitary condition.

There remains, however, a residuum of 150 poor cottages for which nothing can be done, as repairs really mean reconstruction and the houses are not worth the outlay.

The population shows a slight increase, no important change is expected.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND

- (1) Dampness
 - (a) No damp course in walls
 - (b) No eaves guttering (or defective)
 - (c) No down water pipes
 - (d) Roof in bad repair
 - (e) Damp brick or defective floors
- (2) Lack of Ventilation.
- (3) Low Ceilings, small windows
- (4) Rotten Plaster and Woodwork
- (5) No sufficient Sanitary Accommodation
- (6) No sufficient Water Supply

Owners in some cases to blame, in others, tenants

GENERAL ACTION TAKEN

Informal notices under Public Health Acts, followed by Statutory notices, if necessary.

Difficulties in remedying unfitness generally occur in respect of really bad property which it does not pay to repair. Minor defects are usually remedied after informal notice.

UNHEALTHY AREAS None existing

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TENTS, VANS
AND SHEDS

There would not appear to be need for additional regulations

Housing Statistics for 1925.

New Houses built during 1925.

(a) Total	25
-----------	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) with state assistance—

(1) by local authority	...	Nil
------------------------	-----	-----

(2) „ other persons	...	7
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UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

(1) Number inspected for defects (Survey and since)	1607
--	-----	-----	-----	------

(2) Number inspected under Housing regulations	1607
---	-----	-----	-----	------

(3) Number found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	156
---	----	-----	-----

(4) Number found not in all respects fit for habitation	169
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority	6
---	---

Action under Statutory Powers.

(1) Number of Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
---	-----

- (2) Number of Houses rendered fit :—
 (a) by Owners Nil
 (b) by local Authority in default of
 Owners Nil
- (3) Number of houses in respect of which
 Closing orders became operative in pur-
 suance of declarations by Owners of
 intention to close Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

- (1) Number of houses in respect of which
 notices were served requiring defects
 to be remedied Nil
- (2) Number of houses in which defects were
 remedied after service of formal notices :—
 (a) by Owners Nil
 (b) by Local Authority in default of
 Owners Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 & 15 HOUSING ACT, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a
 view to making of Closing Orders Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of
 which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (3) Number of houses in respect of which
 Closing Orders were determined the
 houses being rendered fit Nil
- (4) Number of houses in respect of which
 Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (5) Number of houses demolished in pursuance
 of Demolition orders Nil

Inspection of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

A general supervision is exercised over Dairies and Cowsheds as to cleanliness and construction.

No licence for graded milk has been revoked.

MEAT.

Inspections made daily as routine work.

Condemned meat is destroyed at the Council's Incinerator.

Shops are supervised as to cleanliness generally.

No public slaughter house exists.

Number of private slaughter houses in use :—

	1920	Jan. 1925	Dec. 31st 1925
Registered	7	7	7
Licensed	—	—	—

BAKEHOUSES.

These have all been inspected and found to be in satisfactory sanitary state.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Incidence of Diphtheria 1921-25. 0.04 per 1000 yearly

„ „ Scarlet Fever „ 0.1 „ „ „

No cases notified of Encephalitis Lethargica.

No “return” cases of Scarlet Fever.

DIPHTHERIA Antitoxin is supplied gratuitously by the council and freely used curatively and prophylactically.

PNEUMONIA 28 cases during 5 years, many of these followed influenza.

MALARIA. A few cases contracted abroad notified.

No case „ at home „

No case dysentery or trench fever was „

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Counties Laboratory, Queen Victoria St. Examinations are paid for by the County Council.

In 1925 22 diphtheria swabs were examined

6 sputum specimens „ „

4 specimens for ringworm „

3 „ miscellaneous „

Most cases of infectious diseases are investigated personally by M O H. or conjointly with the S.I.

Most cases go to hospital and disinfection of bedding etc., done at the Ambulance Station by means of a Thresh's Disinfector (current steam).

One "carrier" case of Diphtheria was sent to hospital till germ-free.

SCHICK AND DECK TESTS.

Up to the end of 1925 no use has been made of these methods.

Vaccinations by M.O.H. under 1917 regulations Nil

No extensive outbreak of measles has occurred

An epidemic of influenza occurs every winter and is usually mild in type.

Mortality 1925, 5 deaths.

No provision (except at workhouse) except for the cleansing of verminous persons and the want is not felt.

Notifiable Diseases 1925.

DISEASE	NUMBER NOTIFIED	SENT TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	12	9	Nil
Diphtheria	1	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	6	Nil	6

TUBERCULOSIS (NEW CASES).

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PUL-MONARY		NON-PUL-MONARY		PUL-MONARY		NON-PUL-MONARY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
-5				2			1	
10		1		3				
15								
20		3						
25								
35	2				2	2		1
45		2						
55						1		
65 and upwards	1							
Totals	3	6	0	5	2	3	1	1

Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925. No action.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 62. No action.

Tuberculosis Schemes. Essex County Scheme in operation.

Venereal Disease. Patients sent to Chelmsford Hospital and London Hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council and resides near Ongar.

Two district nurse midwives reside in the district at Fyfield and Stanford Rivers, and others from outside practise in the area.

An Infants Welfare Centre is held at Abridge and another is being arranged at Ongar.

Puerperal Fever is rare but one case occurred in 1925

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified in 1925 of which one was probably not gonococcal.

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated					
	At Home	At Hospital				
2	2	0	2	0	0	0

MEASLES.

No important outbreak.

WHOOPING COUGH.

„ „ „

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA. Not known in the area.

POLIMYELITIS. No cases in the last five years.

A. S. DAVID,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1925.

COUNCIL HOUSE,
ONGAR, ESSEX

GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully beg to hand you my Annual Report as Sanitary and Meat Inspector and Building Surveyor.

I duly commenced my duties with your Council on the 7th October, 1925.

WATER SUPPLY.

The number of analysis of water were ten all being found in order.

At Stapleford Abbotts the water supply has been extended to Towley Cottages and supplied through meter by the Romford R.D. Council.

Several new wells have been sunk and found in order. An improvement to the water supply in certain parts of the Parish of Navestock would be greatly appreciated, as well as at Kelvedon Common.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

The number of houses near the "Red Cow" P.H., Shelley, are increasing and the time has come when this

part of the district will have to have a proper sewage system as at present the cesspools are inclined to be a danger to health as there is no means for the overflow to be dealt with.

Draining to new property is insisted upon and either tested with smoke or water before being passed.

The whole of the sewers are examined every week by a man in charge of same.

At the Ongar Sewage Farm the contract of extension is in full progress and should be completed by Mid-Summer next.

One hundred and eleven visits of inspection and testing drainage and sewers have been made.

The sewers at Ongar and Abridge will require chaining through to remove the large quantity of silt at present in them and which is the cause of so many blockages. The Abridge sewer works are far from satisfactory owing to their position, but I hope next summer to improve same by clearing the old drains.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Twelve visits were made *re* above and four new pail closets have been provided in place of privies.

SCAVENGING.

The town of Ongar is scavenged every Monday, and in addition all house hardware such as glass, tins, &c., is now kept in separate receptacle and collected the first Monday in the month, and the village of High Ongar is scavenged every other Wednesday. The houses in the vicinity of the "Red Cow" P.H., Shelley, should now be included in the scavenging and the Council are now contemplating fresh contracts for same. A new Incinera-

tor is to be constructed at the refuse tip at Halsford Bridge.

SCHOOLS.

Schools are regularly visited and are found in a very fair condition. The School at Beauchamp Roding was closed for reasons of insufficient Scholars. This is unfortunate as it is a much better School than Abbess Roding, as to a health point of view.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are fifteen bakehouses in the district and these are visited every month and found in a satisfactory condition as to cleanliness and limewashing.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

Owing to the new Meat Regulations, particular attention is now paid to the inspection of meat and other foods, and licences of slaughterhouses are granted annually, no licences have been revoked, much advice has been given to Traders.

MILK SUPPLIES.

All milk sellers are registered and inspected frequently ; the largest majority are wholesalers. Much improvement in the construction of cowsheds have been carried out, and at Paslow Hall Farm, High Ongar, the London Co-operative Society Ltd., are carrying out large structural alterations to comply for the purpose of supplying graded milk under licence from the County Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Patients are removed by the Council's Motor Ambulance to hospital at Dagenham free of charge and

the Council anticipate purchasing a new motor ambulance. Further reports are dealt with in the M.O.H. report.

HOUSING ACTS, 1923—1924.

The Council propose considering a scheme for the erection of cottages in various parts of the District and hope to be in a position to commence building in the early part of the new year.

Number of new houses for which plans were passed viz :

Houses	...	12
Bungalows	...	13
+ Additions	...	6
Other Buildings	...	4
Subsidy Granted		7

All petroleum and petrol stores are inspected as to safe storage and five licences have been granted.

Licences are granted annually at a cost of five shillings.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PARMENAS R. B. PEARCE, A.S.I.

